

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-7 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Ishii et al. (USP 6,377,790). Although Applicant does not admit that Ishii et al. is relevant to any of claims 1-7 and 11-13, Applicant attaches a Rule 1.131 Declaration and Exhibit A to antedate Ishii et al., thereby removing Ishii et al. as prior art, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application. Accordingly, an indication that claims 1-7 and 11-13 are allowable is kindly requested.

CONCLUSION

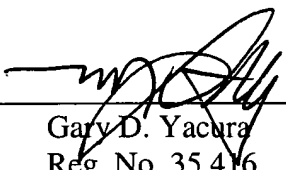
In the event that any matters remain at issue in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew J. Lattig at (703) 668-8000 in the Northern Virginia area, for the purpose of a telephonic interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By


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Attachments: Rule 1.131 Declaration with Exhibit A.